

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--However, and as will be understood by those skilled in the art, a variety of configurations may be used for the first arm and the second arm arrangement to synchronously clamp and align the first flange and the second flange in an installed position without deviating from the scope of the current invention. The synchronization of the arms from between the open and closed positions may comprise any structure or arrangement of a clamp or fastener.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 1 of the Abstract, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--A self-aligning coupling for mating a pair of corresponding flanged fittings, generally for pipe couplings. The self-aligning coupling includes a first arm, a second arm, and a rotational assist mechanism adapted to mechanically synchronize the closing of the first and second arms relative to the flanged fittings to be connected. The rotational assist mechanism is further adapted to provide motion between the first arm and the second arm to receive and secure the flanged fittings in axial alignment.--

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